

the natural resources districts. That is what they are created for and they are the lead agency that this Legislature has given the authority to through LB 1106 and a number of other legislative bills in that area of groundwater protection, whether it be for the quality or for the quantity. The other thing that you will find out if you ask the people of this state is that most people think we have too much government in the State of Nebraska and there is a number of statistics that would indicate that we do lead the nation or are very high in the nation in the number of local political subdivisions. Well, here is one of the examples why. We have got one particular area of the state, in Senator Johnson and Senator Sieck's area, where there is an NRD that encompasses the whole thing and then we also have some of the old groundwater conservation districts that are still there. Now, in the rest of the state they have all been incorporated. They are not there anymore. They are not needed anymore and I would argue they are not needed in Senator Sieck and Senator Johnson's area either. Now, if you want to begin the process of reducing the amount of government, here is a good place to do it. If you also...this is another example, I would point out to you, of the fact that sunset legislation doesn't work. I can remember in the length of time when I have been here, I think this is the third or...second or third or fourth time we have had bills dealing with this particular issue extending the date. Each time we extend it another couple, three years because we simply don't have the guts to say, look, folks, we don't need all these political subdivisions, we have got the NRDs out there that are doing the job, we don't need groundwater conservation districts within the NRDs, so we are just going to let the sunset provision work and at the end of a certain date they are going to cease to exist. That is the logical way to do it. I would urge you to kill LB 124 and let that sunset provision work. You are not going to damage anybody. Senator Sieck says that there is a lot of education that needs to take place. Well, out in the Upper Republican area where they have got a groundwater management plan already working, a control area, they had to do an awfully lot of education and it didn't require a groundwater conservation district to do it. The NRDs did the education that was necessary. I would suggest that those people who are on those groundwater conservation district boards, if they want to be involved in educating the public, they can certainly do that free gratis as part of the NRD system and we had ought to tell them to go ahead